

Please note, the following notes were typed up directly from the flip chart notes taken at the meeting. City staff are currently working to identify consistent concerns and common themes, which will be posted separately.

Table 1

Session 1 9:30 – 10:30

Question: What makes your neighborhood the place you've chosen to work, live, or shop? *Follow up:* What would make it better? What types of housing opportunities does your neighborhood have now?

- Moved here because affordable and available
- Moved here because affordable, remodel potential
- Close to city, bus and park
- Make Cheasty safer to walk, lighting improved
- Lighting more pedestrian
- Not so high, too much light with dark spots
- Better biking, pedestrian routes (Rainier)

Question: What type of housing opportunities would you like to see it have in the future? *Follow up:* As the community grows, changing housing costs could potentially affect some residents—where and for whom do you see the greatest potential challenge?

- Townhouses versus single family needs to maintain quality and character of single family and neighborhoods incentives
- Limit height of new townhomes
- Allow ADU's
- Need mixed affordable housing
- Need mixed types housing
- Need mixed use (Living wage jobs) and benefits in neighborhood
- Require sustainability in new construction
- Can have higher density housing along Rainier. Limit to along first blocks. Good transition to Single family

Question: What unique character of your commercial district gives it its identity and what would you like to see preserved? *Follow up:* What types of goods, services and employment would you like to see near the transit stations, in your local business districts and accessible to the community?

- Organic food (want)
- Preserve locally owned commercial and ethnic diversity
- Add and expand farmers market
- Local businesses to grow
- Space for community gathering
- Space for young people to gather
- Want place to buy clothes (diversity, Macys, Nordstroms)
- Opportunity for new ethnic owned commercial

Question: How do you use the parks and community centers in your neighborhood or nearby today (exercise, take children to play, relax, informal gathering)? If you don't go to city parks, now, what change would make you want to use the parks more?

- Community kiosk and parks
- More P-Patch at parks
- Greater program opportunity in MLK park

Table 1, Session 2 10:30 – 11:30

Question: What type of housing opportunities would you like to see it have in the future? *Follow up:* As the community grows, changing housing costs could potentially affect some residents—where and for whom do you see the greatest potential challenge?

- Increase investment by renovation
- Support ACQ/rehab (money and expertise) Tenant Improvement
- Question requirements for single family improvements realistic
- Have mix of retail and housing (housing over commercial)
- Co-housing, efficient use of land, kid friendly
- Financing question, non profit or developer assist.
- Want affordable housing. Include family, not high end materials
- Include full range of affordable ethnicity, families, density within town center
- Town center area needs to be identified-expanded, not just station

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- Larger grocery store (love Trader Joes)
- Possible second Center at I-90 and Rainier
- Possible multiple centers on Rainier. Housing over commercial 4-5 stories
- Views are important
- Variety of open space informal space, play street. (pg5) (Bellevue like play or UV)
- Need walkability on Rainier (now they walk off Rainier) zig-zag

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- City parks planning needs community input
- Connect Cheasty and Mt Baker Blvd.
- Green space needs to be relinked. For example Stairs at dead end street, ROW – Utility ROW Gardens, linear parks, tree canopy, habitat for birds.
- MLK & Rainier intersections not friendly. "Mess"
- LOWES?? Need more diversity of service commercial, more mixed use, break up block

- Rainier to be bike friendly Columbia City to Downtown
- Favor – Slowing Traffic on Rainier possible re-route to MLK – p[reserve flat land for M/U (traffic bypass)]

Table 2

Session 1 9:30 – 10:30

Questions: What makes your neighborhood the place you've chosen to work, live, or shop? *Follow up:* What would make it better? What types of housing opportunities does your neighborhood have now?

What type of housing opportunities would you like to see it have in the future? *Follow up:* As the community grows, changing housing costs could potentially affect some residents—where and for whom do you see the greatest potential challenge?

What unique character of your commercial district gives it its identity and what would you like to see preserved? *Follow up:* What types of goods, services and employment would you like to see near the transit stations, in your local business districts and accessible to the community?

How do you use the parks and community centers in your neighborhood or nearby today (exercise, take children to play, relax, informal gathering)? If you don't go to city parks, now, what change would make you want to use the parks more?

- Great residential neighborhood, but the town center does not yet exist – why are we so far behind?
- Proximity to downtown is great
- Has foundational elements to make a great town center
- Greenbelt, proximity to water, schools – great access
- MLK corridor is not pedestrian friendly, poor walking experience
- Hoping retail will come with light rail, build on light rail services
- Currently no there there – area traditionally a thoroughfare – need town center @ MLK/Rainier Station
- Difficult to create main street along arterials – maybe create main street perpendicular
- Housing density creates retail opportunity
- Different opportunities in different parts of planning area – best to focus on station area
- Plan for bicycles as well as pedestrians
- Differentiate MLK vs. Rainier – between Lowes and QFC on Rainier, could be local, pedestrian focused.
- Put trucks and traffic on MLK
- Get government out of the way – the market will provide – don't dictate outcomes
- Density and affordability of housing are key determinants – public policy will make or break development potential.
- Eliminate L4RC zoning – too restrictive

Notes from Group 1, Creating Choices for Living, Working and Recreating

- To create vibrant town center, need housing density to provide eyes on the street
- Minor displacement (residential) issues since low residential density at station – maybe some business displacement.
- Preserve existing small businesses, especially ethnic diversity, as changes occur – now and in the future
- Very culturally diverse – need to preserve affordability – may not be feasible in town center
- Incentives for developing affordable housing or market may not dictate, otherwise or nothing will get built.
- Height could bog down implementation of density
- Valley allows height without impacting views
- Graham and Alaska crossing MLK – not flat – accidents, can't see train, need signage at crossings
- Portland Pearl District = great model to aspire to, especially density, sidewalks, streetscape, identity
- Cheasty greenbelt a great asset – make it more accessible with trails
- Ring of parks – connect lake to circle the valley – chance to create town center surrounded by a greenbelt – topography accentuates village – green ring could be identifying feature
- MLK park always empty – assaults occurring
- Some successful, others not - bring more open space to town center
- Train station = seed planted where town center should be
- Traffic lights, street, and park lighting need improvements to occur – SAFETY
- Need more residents to create SAFETY
- Cheasty greenbelt creates barriers to pedestrian walking down to the station – lots of barriers – steep slopes, brambles

Table 2, Session 2 10:30 – 11:30

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- Light rail makes this great neighborhood to live. Easy access to downtown, other neighborhoods, airport.
- Need good transit and pedestrian/bike access to station to facilitate LR use
- Old streetcar routes
- Take away Shucks and pawnshop
- Convert UW laundry facility to extension campus
- Market area as focus for light industrial, clean, green tech jobs
- Immigrant population in past had a great manufacturing and construction jobs
- Skills of immigrants not recognized, due to language differences and licensing, degrees not accepted – different accreditation systems
- Immigrants often want to open business, especially ethnic
- green industry
- keep kids busy to keep them out of trouble
- as new people come in, attracted by light rail, what happens to existing ethnic business
- OROMO = 5000 in Seattle and King County, came first in 1980, Jackson and MLK = Seattle Oromo Community Center, Yesler and 189th SHA housing = 75% Oromo
- Lots of African businesses along Rainier and MLK
- Police station and FedEx/Kinkos cannot talk to officer in car
- Disconnect between service centers and community
- employ immigrants in service centers
- improve access to ESL classes
- Another library in this area – focus for ESL, welcoming diversity into neighborhood.
- post office, grocery – all near light rail
- slow down in Sound Transit reviews might help us here
- one destination – town center – to do all errands so that walking feasible weekly; amenities centrally focused
- Arts and restaurants = low cost destination; could be a neighborhood theme
- green tech hub – multi-generational lots of opportunity. Need to create incentives
- bookstore, could be catalyst – interpreters multi-language
- auto dealerships generate lots of sales tax and bring people with money
- healthcare and gyms
- bookstore = great gathering place
- cafes and coffee shops
- parks need better restrooms with privacy
- some parks not safe after sundown. Many heavily used in daytime hours. Uses – soccer park feels safer. Need help from police
- one assault can make lots of people avoid an area, making area more dangerous
- footbridge of MLK/Rainier doesn't connect to anything
- need pedestrian/bike paths that connect to destination.
- 31st bike trail working very well
- Signs in other languages, or icons
- Blind people – unsafe crossings along Rainier and MLK

Notes from Group 1, Creating Choices for Living, Working and Recreating

- bike/pedestrian over-crossing along McClellan
- MLK/Memorial Park -= never used – no activities, very passive, steep, too much traffic noise. Convert to P Patch? Community garden?
- farms market near light rail – opportunity, especial if Columbia City closes moves?
- PCC has some traditional foods year round, need more
- Connect green belts/spaces with pedestrian/bike facilities – put in Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Plan
- Lowes and Pepsi and Parking lot – prime opportunity for village-type redevelopment
- Want to encourage N. Rainier as destination. REI, sports facilities
- Mini Microsoft campus
- Gates Foundation
- Green bldg foundation
- live/work/row/kayak/sail/swim in N. Rainier Valley

Table 2, Session 3 11:30 – 12:30

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How do you use the parks and community centers in your neighborhood or nearby today (exercise, take children to play, relax, informal gathering)? If you don't go to city parks, now, what change would make you want to use the parks more?

- Easy access to downtown and work places
- Diversity – ethnic and economic
- Access to groceries/produce – could be better
- Proximity to lake and open space/green
- Variety in restaurants and shops
- Affordable housing of various types – apartments and single family
- Good transit
- Arterials = barriers to pedestrian and bicycle – E/W access
- Urban Village designation, potential for positive change
- Not much single family within village boundary – what little multifamily that exists won't last long
- N. Rainier plan developed by Beacon Hill and Mt. Baker residents – not holistic views

- Commercial auto oriented development occurring in NC zones – too much parking being built in Dearborn
- Need neighborhood focused advocacy group to ensure implementation of plan
- Redraw urban village boundaries based on overlapping urban catchment areas around stations (no arbitrary circles)
- Rainier – pedestrianize – streetcar line – single lane – and bike lane and trees
- Invest in trolley lines up to first hill to complement light rail and link communities/neighborhoods
- Streetcar on Rainier
- Need multi-modal/multi-speed transit geared for different users – commuters, residents, visitors, etc.
- Safety – better neighborhood watch
- Cheasty greenbelt = huge opportunity – invest in better access for cycling, walking, public art, more “eyes on the street” to link Othello with N. Rainier
- Kids cannot get to playgrounds – bad access, not safe
- Need parks, within village as housing is built, small urban playscapes
- New park strategy as aggressive as TOD
- Cultural opportunities overlay district.